

10th October 2019

Our Ref: P.1202.19

Eccleston Homes Ltd
Suite 114,
Newton House,
Birchwood Park,
Warrington,
WA3 6FW

Dear Mr Fillingham,

Re: Tree bat roost potential climbing inspection at Former Mondi Site (Site 1), Holcombe Mill, Bridge Street, Ramsbottom, BL0 0BS

Ascerta has been instructed by Eccleston Homes Ltd to carry out a tree bat roost potential climbing inspection on a tree with **moderate** bat roost potential at Holcombe Mill, Bridge Street, Ramsbottom, BL0 0BS. The inspection was carried out to determine if the tree that was previously assessed as having moderate bat roost potential during the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal undertaken on 1st July 2019 (*P.1202.19 Ascerta, Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Former Mondi Site (Site 1), Holcombe Mill, Bridge Street, Ramsbottom, BL0 0BS, Aug 19*). The tree located adjacent that was previously assessed as having **low** bat roost potential during the Preliminary Ecological Assessment was also surveyed during the tree climb inspection.

Survey and Conditions

The site was attended by Mr John Harrison-Bryant (Natural England level 2 bat licence 2015-10251-CLS-CLS) and arborists from Crown Cutters Tree Surgery on 4th October 2019. Weather conditions were warm (14°C) and dry with light air (Force 1 on the Beaufort Scale) with $\frac{7}{8}$ cloud cover at the start of the survey.

These weather conditions were considered suitable for assessing bat roost potential of the trees. The trees could be assessed fully during the climbing inspection. The weather conditions and time of year the survey was carried out is not considered a limit to the conclusions of this letter report.

Bat Survey Methods

The survey methods followed the guidelines set out by the Bat Conservation Trust Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists Good Practice Guidelines- 3rd Edition (2016). Trees were assessed for suitability for use by bats and categorised independently using table 4.1 page 35 within the Bat Conservation Trust Guidelines (Collins, 2016). Any features found were assessed as to type of feature and possible use within Bat Roost in Trees (Andrews, 2018).

Preliminary Roost Assessment of Trees

The trees were inspected for Potential Roost Features (PRFs). Features searched for included: Natural or woodpecker holes, cracks/splits in major limbs, loose bark, hollows/ cavities, dense epicormic growth, bird and bat boxes. Where such features were found they were investigated for scratches or staining, bat droppings and smoothing of surfaces around entry points. Any feature found was inspected using an Explorer Premium recording endoscope. Trees assigned a suitability of **moderate** or above may require further inspection if they are to be lost to the development.

Mere One, Mere Grange, Elton Head Road, St Helens, Merseyside WA09 5GG
Tel: 0845 463 4404 **Email:** info@landscapetreeseecology.com **Web:** www.landscapetreeseecology.com
VAT Reg. No.: 171 7491 93

Results

Bat Roost Potential Climbing Inspection

The tree previously assessed as having moderate bat roost potential is a poplar sp. with a callus roll (Photo 2) at approximately 6m height west facing. The feature on this tree were assessed during the tree climb inspection. The callus roll cavity extended within the tree, however, was filled with water, slugs and cobwebs were present within the feature. No bats were present within the feature and the tree bat roost potential has been downgraded to **negligible** bat roost potential following the climb inspection. The cavity has been filled with a piece of foam which was found on site, to reduce the risk of bats using the feature as a roost opportunistically in the future.

The poplar tree previously assessed as having low bat roost potential located adjacent to the tree with negligible (previously moderate) bat roost potential (Photo 1) was inspecting during the tree climb inspection. There are cracks within a flush cut at approximately 7m height south west facing. The feature was examined during the tree climb and the cracks did not extend deep within the tree. The tree was downgraded from low to **negligible** bat roosting potential.



Photo 1: Tree left (Previously low bat roost potential),
Tree right (Previously moderate bat roost potential)



Photo 2: Callus roll within tree within moderate bat
roost potential

Conclusions

Both poplar trees that were subject to a tree climb inspection on 4th October 2019 have been downgraded to negligible bat roosting potential following the inspection. Both trees require no further surveys in relation to bats and can be felled without further investigation in relation to bats.

Yours sincerely,

Tosha Allen BSc (Hons)

Ascerta

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